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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Nature of Livestock Production Rate Estimates Desired for 1975

Economic Maximum Rates.- These are estimates of regional average rates of output per head and feed inputs per head or per unit of output based on full, efficient economic application of available technology. This is technology that is now fully available or that is so far advanced that its availability for farm use in 1975 can be predicted with assurance. Such estimates are not forecasts of what farmers will do, but estimates of the regional average rates possible if all farmers used presently available technology to the most profitable extent. Since they are maximum economic possibilities they would generally be based on results from Experiment Station trials and judgments of research workers. No limitations of managerial ability, feed, capital, and other production resources are considered in estimating maximum economic yields.

Innovations requiring large new capital investments and involving the scrapping of existing resources might not be capable of full accomplishment by 1975. Also, developments in genetics might not be fully applied to the larger kinds of livestock. With poultry, however, developments in breeding may be capable of full adoption. For example, hybrid layers could be fully adopted.

Economic Attainable Rates.- These are estimates of regional average rates based on research workers' estimates of what farmers are likely to do from the application of available technology, based on past experience and the future economic conditions assumed. Such estimates take into account limitations on management, materials, equipment, and capital available to farmers. ^{1/}

Assumptions on Which These Estimates are Based

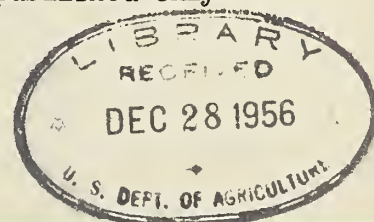
(1) That there will be sufficient continuity in production research programs to assure maintenance of levels of output per head and levels of feed efficiency at any given time.

(2) That present geographic distribution of livestock production within regions will generally continue. However, trends toward concentration of production in larger herds, flocks, etc. should be recognized.

(3) That price and income incentives will be sufficient to encourage adoption of known technology. Cost-price relationships as favorable as prevailed in 1951-53 are assumed.

(4) That adequate quantities of feed, equipment, credit, and other production goods will be available at prices that will encourage their use. The substitution of other resources for labor will continue.

^{1/} In some instances, both types of estimates may be developed for selected States as well as regions, but estimates will be published only for regional averages such as Corn Belt, Lake States, etc.



(5) That educational and action programs will encourage the adoption of improved practices.

Supporting Tabulations

(1) Regional Average Rates.- The regional averages of numbers and production are derived from the annual reports of the Agricultural Estimates Division, AMS. The estimates of feed or feed units consumed per head and per unit of production are from Jennings, "Consumption of Feed by Livestock" and his unpublished revisions. The 1949-50 feed-year is the most recent year for which State and regional feed data are available.

